

introducing Wine-making as an additional branch of Canadian industry, I should think he would be a public benefactor, and I see no improbability of its being done with American Vines, though I fear the length of our Winter not leaving sufficient time for the European Grape to come to perfection.

I believe that the Ohio Vineyards already produce a good article, and are improving from year to year.

Believe me, &c.,

WILLIAM HINCKS.

P.S. Mr. De C. refers to the Blue-Berry, but he should observe that it is not the same species as the European, and is of course one adapted specially to our climate.

To William Hutton, Esq., &c.,
Quebec.

Clair House,
Cooksville, Sep. 30, 1859.

Sir,—Absence from home prevented my replying to your letter, dated Sept. 20.

It gives me the greatest pleasure to coincide with Mr. De Courtenay in many respects, as regards the cultivation of Vineyards. I cannot of course, speak with certainty of the Lower Province, but I consider it a matter of vital importance to Upper Canada.

I have proved, beyond a doubt, that immense crops of grapes can be raised without the necessity of either burying them, as in the Crimea, or pruning low, as recommended by Mr. De Courtenay.

Last year I cut several tons off a few acres, selling some ripe, turning some of the Green Grapes into Champagne, and also making some Red Champagne, as well as some Dry Sherry. I sold 100 gallons of Champagne to one person, who speaks highly of it, and I bottled a cask for home consumption, which is universally liked.

I am strongly of opinion that age will greatly improve the fabric, from the fact that a few bottles remaining from my first Vintage are now far superior, and evidently still improving.

My plan of action is this: I strike any quantity of cuttings, a foot apart, and six inches in the rows: these remain two years, requiring little trouble to keep them free from weeds. In the meantime I trench and underdrain the ground. This done, I take the two year old plants and plant them out Spring or Autumn, encouraging their growth by frequent tillage, and the following year I receive a small return.

If large crops be required, it is necessary to be particular about the under-draining, and for the vineyard to be permanent to trench the ground, making use of whole bones, except the land be pure sand, when trenching may be dispensed with.

I have many vines growing over wire trellises, formed like the roof of a house, others simply tied to stakes. I have much larger crops from the wire trellises, but the expense of erection,

and growth of grass and weeds under them would prevent my making use of them on a larger scale. The spring frost has never injured my vines till this year, when that of the 4th June cut off my entire crop, leaving, however, the vines uninjured. The white frost in the Autumn certainly improves the grapes, but I have proved that one severe enough to cut off the leaves injures the fruit.

I am of opinion that cuttings procured from abroad would certainly fail, from their requiring to be buried in the Winter, thus causing a large amount of labour, and injuring the vineyard. On the other hand, the native grape, the Clinton, has stood the test of the hardest Winter unharmed, while the Black Hamburg, Black Chester, Sweet Water, Isabella, Catawba and Royal Muscadine have been all killed to the ground. The Clinton, with sugar, makes a splendid wine. The resources of Canada can never be developed unless such men as Mr. De Courtenay meet with every encouragement. His engagement is very fair but difficult. Canada covered with vines would be very different from Canada as it now is; and how many men have had grants of land, on which nothing has been done but felling the timber and planting potatoes.

I have tried everything in my power to spread the vine culture, but without sufficient means what can I do single-handed? I have given away plants, and tried to impress upon numbers the great advantage accruing to themselves and the country from Grape culture, but they will incur the first necessary expense, and they also have a fear of the want of a market. Let the engine, however, be once set in motion, and there can be no doubt of the country being soon covered with a splendid article of commerce.

The interest I feel in the matter must be an apology for the length of this letter.

I am, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,
HENRY PARKER.

On sending a copy of Mr. Parker's letter to Professor Hincks and Mr. De Courtenay, the following replies were received:—

University College,
Toronto, October 7, 1859.

To W. Hutton, Esq.,
Quebec.

My Dear Sir,—I am much obliged to you for the copy of Mr. Parker's letter, and am glad to find that an intelligent man, of considerable practical experience, confirms my view as to the culture of the Vine. The Clinton Vine, which he thinks hardiest of all that are useful, is one of the varieties from the native species. It is probable, however, that with the system of pruning the Catawba and Isabella Grapes, of native origin, and which are so much cultivated in Ohio, would flourish and yield valuable produce: but Mr. Parker confirms my view that trying the European Grapes in this climate would be useless.